

§ 11.1

47 CFR Ch. I (10–1–96 Edition)

- 11.19 EAS Non-participating National Authorization Letter.
- 11.20 State Relay Network.
- 11.21 State and Local Area Plans and FCC Mapbook.

SOURCE: 59 FR 67092, Dec. 28, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 11.1 Purpose.

This part contains rules and regulations providing for an Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS provides the President with the capability to provide immediate communications and information to the general public at the National, State and Local Area levels during periods of national emergency. The rules in this part describe the required technical standards and operational procedures of the EAS for AM, FM and TV broadcast stations, cable systems and other participating entities. The EAS may be used to provide the heads of State and local government, or their designated representatives, with a means of emergency communication with the public in their State or Local Area.

Subpart B—Equipment Requirements

- 11.31 EAS protocol.
- 11.32 EAS Encoder.
- 11.33 EAS Decoder.
- 11.34 Acceptability of the equipment.
- 11.35 Equipment operational readiness.

Subpart C—Organization

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- 11.44 EAS message priorities.
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Subpart D—Emergency Operations

- 11.51 EAS code and Attention Signal Transmission requirements.
- 11.52 EAS code and Attention Signal Monitoring requirements.
- 11.53 Dissemination of Emergency Action Notification.
- 11.54 EAS operation during a National Level emergency.
- 11.55 EAS operation during a State or Local Area emergency.

Subpart E—Tests

- 11.61 Tests of EAS procedures.
- 11.62 Closed Circuit Tests of National Level EAS facilities.

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (i) and (o), 303(r), 544(g) and 606.

§ 11.11 The Emergency Alert System (EAS).

(a) The EAS is composed of broadcast networks; cable networks and program suppliers; AM, FM and TV broadcast stations; Low Power TV (LPTV) stations; cable systems; and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the National, State, or local levels. It requires that at a minimum all participants use a common EAS protocol, as defined in § 11.31, to send and receive emergency alerts in accordance with the effective dates in the following tables:

TIMETABLE.—BROADCAST STATIONS

Requirement	Until 7/1/95	7/1/95	1/1/97	1/1/98
Two-tone/encoder timing.	20–25 seconds	8–25 seconds	8–25 seconds	8–25 seconds. ¹
Two-tone decode timing	8–16 seconds required 3–4 seconds optional ..	All decoders at 3–4 seconds.	3–4 seconds	Two-tone decoder no longer used.
Digital decoder and encoder.	Use is optional	Use is optional	Use is required	Use is required.

CABLE SYSTEMS

Requirement	Until 7/1/97	7/1/97 ²
Two-tone signal from storage device. ¹	Use is optional, 8–25 seconds	Use is required, 8–25 seconds.
Digital decoder and encoder	Use is optional	Use is required. ²

¹ Two-tone signal used only to provide audio alert to audience before EAS emergency messages and required monthly test.

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²On this date, subject cable systems shall provide: (1) a video message on all channels or other alerting techniques to hearing impaired and deaf subscribers, (2) an audio message and video interruption on all channels, and (3) a video message on at least one channel to all subscribers.

NOTE: Class D FM and low power TV stations are not required to have two-tone or digital encoders. LPTV stations that operate as television broadcast translator stations are exempt from the requirement to have EAS equipment. FM translator stations are exempt from the requirement to have EAS equipment.

EAS TIMETABLE AND REQUIREMENTS BROADCAST STATIONS

Requirement	AM	FM	FM Class D	TV	LPTV ¹
Two-tone decoder (until 1/1/98)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Two-tone encoder	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Digital decoder (1/1/97)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Digital encoder (1/1/97)	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Audio message (1/1/97)		Y	Y	Y	YY
Video message (1/1/97)					YY

CABLE SYSTEMS

Requirement	
Two-tone decoder	N
Two-tone encoder	N
Digital decoder (7/1/97)	Y
Digital encoder (7/1/97)	Y
Audio message on all channels (7/1/97)	Y ²
Video interruption on all channels, video message on one channel (7/1/97)	Y ³

¹LPTV stations that operate as television broadcast translator stations are exempt from the requirement to have EAS equipment.

²Shall transmit two-tone signal, but it may be from a storage device.

³Shall provide video on all channels or other alerting techniques to certified hearing impaired and deaf subscribers.

(b) Class D non-commercial educational FM stations as defined in § 73.506 of this chapter and LPTV stations as defined in § 74.701(f) of this chapter are not required to have or operate EAS encoders as defined in § 11.32. LPTV stations that operate as television broadcast translator stations, as defined in § 74.701(b) of this chapter are not required to comply with the requirements of this part. FM broadcast booster stations as defined in § 74.1201(f) of this chapter and FM translator stations as defined in § 74.1201(a) of this chapter which entirely rebroadcast the programming of other local FM broadcast stations are not required to comply with the requirements of this part.

(c) Organizations using other communications systems or technologies such as, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS), low earth orbit satellite systems, paging, computer networks, etc. may join the EAS on a voluntary basis by contacting the FCC. Organizations that choose to voluntarily participate must comply with the requirements of this part.

[59 FR 67992, Dec. 28, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 55998, Nov. 6, 1995]

§ 11.12 Two-tone Attention Signal encoder and decoder.

Existing two-tone Attention Signal encoder and decoder equipment type accepted for use as Emergency Broadcast System equipment under part 73 of this chapter may be used by broadcast stations until January 1, 1998, provided that such equipment meets the requirements of § 11.32(a)(9) and 11.33(b). Effective January 1, 1998, the two-tone Attention Signal decoder will no longer be required and the two-tone Attention Signal will be used to provide an audio alert.

[60 FR 55999, Nov. 6, 1995]

§ 11.13 Emergency Action Notification (EAN) and Emergency Action Termination (EAT).

(a) The Emergency Action Notification (EAN) is the notice to all broadcast stations, subject cable systems, other regulated services of the FCC, participating industry entities, and to the general public that the EAS has been activated for a national emergency.